

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 19, 2001 LB 598

us about 30 seconds of summary on what took place yesterday.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Yes, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Quickly, LB 598 is a gatekeeper bill. It clarifies policy so that the Office of Juvenile Services rather than the court determines physical placement of a juvenile entering state custody. The court will still maintain control of the juvenile and will still determine the level of treatment of the juvenile needs. As it stands now with the committee amendment, the bill has no fiscal impact. I would appreciate your support. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Mr. Clerk, first item.

CLERK: Senator Thompson would move to amend with AM1524. (Legislative Journal page 1539.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson, you're recognized to open on your amendment, AM1524.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, LB (sic--AM)1524 would delay the implementation of this bill. Actually, it would eliminate the implementation of this bill and, instead, defer to the Juvenile Justice Task Force that this Legislature created last year to make recommendations on detention, diversion, and probation, to take this issue on, give us a...a suggestion for legislation next year that would be based on their research. The task force contains people from across the state. I passed out the list of the people who are on this task force. It includes judges, state senators, probation officers, service providers to juvenile offenders, child advocates, people who work in community groups dealing with juvenile offenders, and people from the Department of Health and Human Services. This group has been working over the course of the summer and fall and has met after the session this year, and I believe them to be very capable to bring this issue forward next year in a shape that has the confidence of the people in the system. I consider the proposal that's before us one coming from the top down, and I'm...in talking with people in the field, I don't know that they are comfortable with taking